

APRIL 2026



EVANGEL NEWSLETTER

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CONTACT US

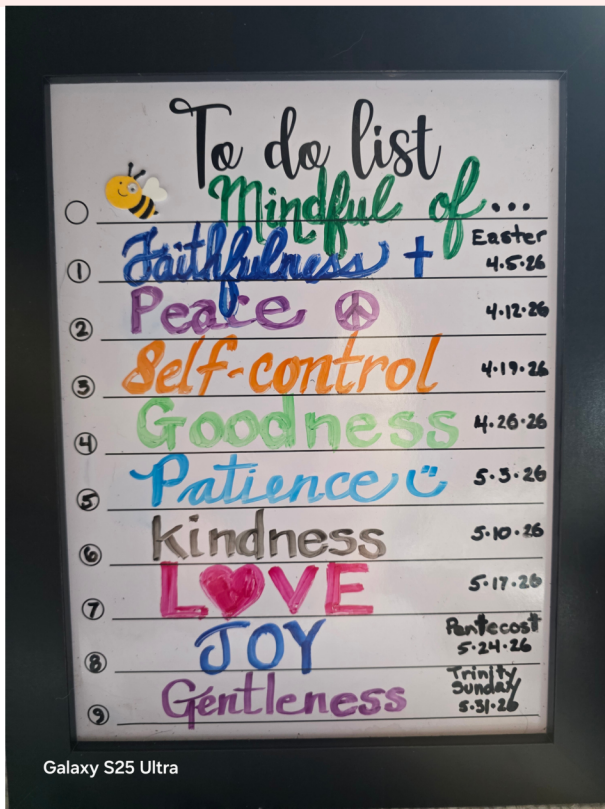


MINDFUL Mission

A nine week program to help inspire our spiritual life! Starting Easter 4/5 through Trinity Sunday 5/31, we will be encouraged to participate in mindful exercises with the hope of putting the Word of God into actions in our life during each week.

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Galaxy S25 Ultra

Pastor's Message

April 2026

Greetings Easter disciples,

I often reflect on how Jesus might have felt as he neared his last journey to Jerusalem. For nearly three years, he dedicated himself to preaching, teaching, healing, and performing miracles—all intended to equip his disciples for a new and radically different life that awaited them.

Although I have not accomplished anything extraordinary, I recognize a parallel between the pattern of Jesus' final three years and our own recent three-year experience. The primary distinction lies in our perspective: we live after the crucifixion, with a clearer understanding of Jesus' actions and our responsibilities in ministry. Despite this difference, as we gather to reflect on the significance of the empty tomb, we must acknowledge that there are aspects of this transformative event that remain beyond our complete comprehension.

Change is necessary. For Jesus, his death and resurrection marked the turning point in God's plan for salvation. He needed to return to the Father for the sake of the world, and the disciples—then and now—are called to continue his work of preaching, teaching, healing, and sharing the story.

Much like the disciples, who had to discover a new way of living after Jesus ascended to heaven, the Durham family must also adapt to change when I retire. The good news is that, just as the early disciples were not left on their own, God's spirit will remain with you and continue to guide the ministry here. Additionally, God will send a new shepherd to care for you. Only God knows who that person will be, but I am confident they will be cherished by this community and that you will thrive under their guidance.

Were the disciples adequately prepared for the changes ahead? Did they anticipate what was to come? Were they apprehensive about these transitions, and did they question their capabilities or the likelihood of success in their new circumstances? These are important and relevant questions that we will address during our remaining time together. Regardless of how much time remains, I am fully confident that you have been called to serve as a guiding presence here in Durham, and that you will continue to demonstrate dedication and steadfastness as a supportive community for those in need.

I am pleased to participate in this Easter celebration with you. In the near future, we will pursue our respective ministries as directed by our callings.

See you in Church

Your servant in Christ.

Pastor Jim Heckman

Lutheran Congregational Services Lay Eucharistic Training

Eucharistic Visitors are members of the congregation who are selected by their pastor and trained to bring the communion meal from worship to ill and homebound members of their congregation who are unable to attend service.

LCS's training ministry engages learners in the Biblical and theological background of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and teaches potential Eucharistic Visitors about visitation and administration of the sacrament.

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

St. John's Lutheran Church

826 Mahoning Dr. W, Lehighton, PA 18235



Saturday, May 23, 2026

9:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Advent Lutheran Church

1601 Green Lane, West Chester, PA 19382

To register for training, please contact the Church Office to complete the online form and submit the \$30.00 fee per person.

Bible Study

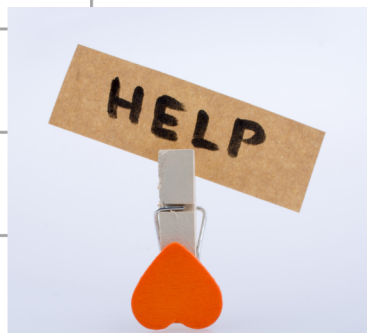


The Adult Bible study meets on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 at the home of Kathy and Joe Hlavaty. We are continuing our study and discussion of the Gospel of Matthew. We invite you to join us.

Helen Dungan

Worship Assistants

Altar Guild	Bea von Watzdorf and Miriam Anderson			
Counting Team				
Date	Greeters	Lector	Head Usher	Acolyte
Apr 5, 2026	Helen Dungan	Bea von Watzdorf	Mark Harwick	Wagner Kids
Apr 12, 2026		Kathryn Wagner		Tucker W.
Apr 19, 2026				
Apr 26, 2026				
May 3, 2026				



Church Calendar of Events-

Wednesday, April 1	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 12:30-2:00 PM	Office Hours Art Project Workshop w/ Leslie Patience
Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 5:30 -7:30 PM	Office hours Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's Dinner and Worship
Friday, April 3 Good Friday	12:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Worship Service Christ Pipersville Lutheran Stations of the Cross St Luke Ferndale Tenebrae Service Trinity Pleasant Valley
Saturday, April 4	1:00 PM	Decorating the church for Easter
Sunday, April 5 Resurrection of our Lord: Easter	6:30 AM 10:00 AM	Sunrise Service Sky Island B&B 57 Red Cliff Rd. Upper Black Eddy Communion Worship ELC Durham
Monday, April 6	Office Closed	
Tuesday, April 7	7:30 PM	Capital Campaign Meeting
Wednesday, April 8	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, April 9	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office hours Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's PALM Planning Meeting @ St Peter's
Friday, April 10	10:00 AM	WELCA meeting @ Helen Dungan's Home Visiting homebound
Sunday, April 12 Second Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM 5:00PM-7:00PM	Communion Worship Groundbreaking Ceremony Confirmation Class @ St Luke Ferndale
Monday, April 13	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Tuesday, April 14	7:00PM	Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 15	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Office Hours VBS Planning meeting at Trinity
Thursday, April 16	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Sunday, April 19 Third Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM 5:00PM-7:00PM	Communion Worship Confirmation Class @ Durham
Monday, April 20	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, April 22	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, April 23	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Sunday, April 26 Fourth Sunday of Easter	10:00 AM After Worship 1:30 PM	Communion Worship Durham Dialogue Iron Pigs Game
Monday, April 27	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours
Wednesday, April 29	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours
Thursday, April 30	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM 10:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 - 3:00 PM	Office hours Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's

April



April	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS
3			Rachel McCallister, Sam Rhine
4			Dave Helfrich
6			Chris Fox, Ben J. Naska
7	Becky Praster		
8			Samantha Mueller
9			Diane De Walt
12		Barbara & Mike Altemus	
13	Ben Naska, Sr.		
14	Joshua Roney		
16	John Wagner		
18			Laura Helfrich
19	Matthew Crouse		
20	Karen Rilling		
21	Jayne Miller		
22			Landon Helfrich
25	Wes Simmons		
24	Priscilla Genthner		
27	Nancy Moskella		Clayton Helfrich, Landon Frey
28	Tim Gadwell		
29	Ben Naska, Jr,		
30	Alison and Emerson Rhine		Ella Rose Michl



Altar Guild- Easter Decorating

Altar Guild will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter Day on Saturday April 4th at 1pm. Anyone willing to help are welcome!

Council Corner is Back!

Have questions about what the 2026 Council is working on?

We're using this space to share updates on projects and concerns brought to our attention. Have a question? Reach out to any council member!

This month's focus: Building Project Update submitted by Cathy Mueller

Our church is truly blessed by a diverse family—families and single members, youth and seniors, new members and long-time faithful, those with stability and those needing support, as well as different perspectives on technology. This diversity challenges the status quo and strengthens our mission, ensuring that everyone has a voice in our present and future. As the "welcoming church on the hill," we are grateful to walk this journey of serving God together.

Our building project began with the necessities of first-floor bathrooms and updated offices for our staff, but it has created an opportunity to expand our mission. One goal is to keep education about God's love at the heart of the new building project as the funds were intended and offering an updated and safe area for care a lot preschool. Other goals include having the new, fully accessible annex be available for various community outreach programs—hosting Bible studies, VBS, senior programs, PALM activities, and various support groups. This versatile space will also help us to welcome a future pastor with creative ministry ideas while strengthening our outreach capabilities, including potential emergency shelter services via our new generator. In addition, by repurposing our existing office into a possible food and clothing bank, this project is an investment in our fellowship and our community.

Our goal is full transparency regarding the project process and funding. Our finance committee does actively monitor our financial health with the council, and we will answer any questions or concerns any member might have. To minimize any financial surprises regarding the project, the building committee has worked with experts to address potential issues (conducted ground penetrating radar scans, removed an unknown buried tank, and checked the septic system). We are currently in a good position as the approved contract is \$1.19M, which is under our \$1.3M approved amount. We are happy to provide financial updates throughout the project, and the contractor is partnering with us to find ways to reduce costs further. We are committed to staying under budget and keeping the congregation updated on our stewardship of both this project and our general operating fund.

Lastly, we will also be working with all existing church committees to identify any existing building improvements that could capitalize on current construction synergies. We have heard from some already... please share with any council member if you have any ideas.

We are grateful for all the input from our church family, which helps our council stay focused on the needs of our church family and local community. We are excited to strengthen our mission and continue to prioritize our impact on the Durham community.

Prayer List

For Healing of those in our Congregation: Barbara Altemus; David Antoni; Joe Hlavaty; George Kreitz; Joan Mammana; Paul McGinn; Bradley Mundt; Barbara Naska; Joanne Ziegenfuss; Pat Zion

For Healing of Friends and Family: Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Hans Buss; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Christine Connelly; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Charlie DeLorenzo; Nancy Edelen; Rose Elcavage; Marissa Embardino; Carol and Leon Errico; Barbara Foster; Gabriella Froehlich; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Barea Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplín; Devon Kramer; Linda Lyle; Colleen Marshall; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Stacy Mecham; Helen Mundt; Hunter Nebbia; Keith Newcomb; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jax Reidinger; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Lillian Staiger; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Karen von Ruffer-Hills; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Ann & Henry Wong and Family; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound: James Altemose; Cheryl Mesko

For families and friends grieving the loss of: Al Boorse; Althea Crouse, Esther Crouse; Jayne Miller; Dennis Phillipps; Jami Silfies; Jeff Starling; Linda Wetherill; Wayne Yeisley

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

February Soup

We had another successful soup sale thanks to all that helped peel, chop, cook, sell and clean up. We made more soup this month than any other month! We sold 104 Chicken Noodle, 67 Chicken Corn and 126 Cream of Broccoli for a total of 297 quarts sold! We collected \$2,982.00. No wonder we were so tired at the end of the day.

A BIG thanks to Mark, Cathy, Deb, Joanne, Helen, Kathy, Linda S., Joe, Pat, Linda H., Pastor Jim, Bonnie, Nancy, Wes, Kris, Barb, Ben, Val, Paul, Lynn, Tom, George, Hunter, Mary and Donny. Without everyone's help this would not have been possible.

We were able to make all of this with the help of \$250 gift card from Thrivent and a \$250 gift card from Shop Rite and I donated the chicken powder from Traugers.

Mark does a wonderful job shopping for all the ingredients and keeping in this budget.



Now we rest up for 10 months when we make our delicious soups again.

Blessings, Miriam

Outreach

Outreach envelope: Our Outreach envelopes for April have been designated to go to Donate Life/Gift of Life which works to match organ donors with those needing an organ transplant.

Thanks to all who contributed to our collection for the food banks in March!

Food baskets: Thanks Cathy Mueller for donating a food basket in honor of Samantha Mueller's birthday. Donating a food basket is a nice way to celebrate or remember a loved one, so please think about donating one. You can do the shopping yourself or delegate the task to Helen Dungan. We ask for \$20 minimum.

Please all who come to worship in person, bring something to share.

Project Easton requested adult depends, shampoo and pinto beans. Project Easton also requests travel size personal care items to help in their ministry to homeless people (Because these people live out of their backpacks, they cannot handle large size containers.)

Upper Bucks Lord's Pantry always needs coffee, but also needs personal care items like shampoo and soap, and laundry detergent. ALL donations are appreciated. If you have a buy one get one free coupon, buy one and donate one.

WELCA



WELCA's March meeting was a work meeting held at the Church Office. We opened with a brief devotion, then distributed our soup money as follows:
In January we collected \$2,195 for soup and \$131.00 for Capital Campaign
In February we collected \$2,982 for soup. and \$62.00 for Capital Campaign
Total of \$5,177.00 was collected for soup and was donated as follows:

\$1,000 Meals on Wheels

\$1,000 World Hunger

\$1,500 The Lord's Pantry

\$1,500 Project Easton Food Bank

\$177 Eastern Upper Bucks Senior Center

Our program was updating the church directory. We removed a number of names, and moved some to the inactive list. Kathy Hlavaty and Cathy Mueller made a lot of phone calls verifying the listed number was correct., and Kat Wagner immediately updated the church database. If you see an error in the updated directory, please notify Kat.

Our April meeting will be held on Friday April 10; we are going to go visit some of our home bound members.

Helen Dungan

PALMI

Holy Week

MARCH 29- APRIL 5



Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

10:00 AM

Worship + Outreach

ELC of Durham



Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

5:30-7:30 PM

Dinner + Worship

ELC of Durham

7:00 PM

Worship Service

Christ Pipersville

7:30 PM

Worship Service

St Peter's

Rieglesville



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

12:00 PM

Worship Service

Christ Pipersville

3:00 PM

Stations

of the Cross

St Luke Ferndale

7:00 PM

Worship Service

Trinity Lutheran



Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

6:30 AM

Sunrise Service

Sky Island B&B

57 Red Cliff Rd.

Upper Black Eddy

10:00 AM

Worship Service

ELC of Durham



JOIN US FOR OUR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

LEARN MORE AT DURHAMLUTHERAN.ORG



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
WORSHIP
Night
SUPPORTING



Samaritan's Purse

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

PLUMSTEAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

5765 Old Easton Road, Plumsteadville, PA

April 25th

6:00-8:00 pm

Learn about Samaritan's
Purse's mission



FREE ADMISSION

A Night with a Mission:

This evening is entirely student-inspired and student-led. Our goal is to unite local believers for a night of praise while supporting the global relief efforts of Samaritan's Purse.

During the event:

- We will have a dedicated segment to share the mission of Samaritan's Purse and provide information on how your family can support their vital ministry.
- Concessions will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

This event follows our recent Service Day, where our 6th-10th grade students spent time packing shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child program. We are excited to keep that momentum going and see how God moves when our local churches gather under one roof to worship!

Save The Date



Trinity is hosting Vacation Bible School again this year and it will be held July 13 - 17 from 9am - 12pm. This year's theme is Snowball Mountain Challenge. Please see Kat if you would like to help in any way. **The next VBS planning meeting is scheduled for Wed, April 15 at 7 pm at Trinity.**

ALL AGES WELCOME

Egg Hunt Starts
2 PM Sharp!
Bring your own baskets.



EASTER EGG HUNT

& Celebration

Saturday April 4th 2026 2 to 4 pm...
Following the Egg Hunt.....

Join Us For Egg Games & Easter Crafts!
Silent Auction & Bake Sale (cash only)

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
470 Church Hill Rd. Kintnersville, Pa 18930

TAKE YOUR OWN PICS WITH EASTER BUNNY!

Grow your own veggies



Keystone Opportunity Center Food Pantry is offering the Seed to Supper Program, a **FREE beginning home gardening program** facilitated by the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners at Zwingli UCC Church in partnership with Keystone Opportunity Center Food Pantry. Adult gardeners will learn the tools they need to successfully grow a portion of their own food on a limited budget.



Learn how to... **Plan, plant and care for your garden*
**Build healthy soil!*
**Harvest and use your veggies & herbs!*



Classes will be held Wednesdays 6-8PM
April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13, 20, 2026
Zwingli UCC 350 Wile Ave
Souderton PA 18964

Spring 2026 applications now open

Please apply for this class by April 1, 2026.




Apply online with the QR code
or contact Keystone Opportunity Center for a paper
application.
aberg@keystoneopp.org 215 723 5430 x123

This program prioritizes individuals in Montgomery County on a limited budget. Capacity is limited and students will be chosen by a lottery system. Childcare will not be provided.

SAVE *the* DATE



Medication Take Back Day is
SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026
10 am - 2 pm

 If you have unused or expired medications, vitamins, sharps, vaping products or pet meds at home, this event is for **YOU!**

Visit bcdac.org for details and collection sites!




ST. PETER'S RUMMAGE SALE

Thurs & Fri, Apr. 23 & 24, 2026
9 am - 5 pm

Saturday Apr. 25, 2026
9 am - 12 pm (\$10 bag day)

CLOTHING • BOOKS
TOYS • HOME DECOR
SOUP & COOKIES

305 Delaware Road, Riegelsville
Have donations? Drop offs are
accepted Apr. 18-20 from 12pm-4pm.
Please no soiled/damaged items,
cassettes/VHS, tv's, large furniture
items or rugs.